

9/11 And Priorities

"Dirty Words", Part 10 of 10
Pastor Vince DiPaola

9/11: Ten Years Later

I) RESPONDING TO THE 9/11 TRAGEDY

1) We shouldn't respond with ___ REVENGE ___. That's God's job.

"Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written, 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord." (Romans 12:19, NIV)

2) We shouldn't respond with ___ RETALIATION ___. That's govt's job.

"Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established... For he is God's servant to do good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer." (Romans 13:1 & 4, NIV)

3) We should respond with ___ REASSESSMENT ___ of our priorities.

"They said to me, 'Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.' When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven." (Nehemiah 1:3-4, NIV)

(see Nehemiah's prayer in Nehemiah 1:5-11)

"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves." (2 Corinthians 13:5a, NIV)

II) REASSESSING OUR TRUE PRIORITIES

What 9/11 Should Remind Us About Life

1) Allow tragedy the room to ___ REARRANGE YOUR PRIORITIES ___.

"Better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, because a sad face is good for the heart." (Ecclesiastes 7:2-3, NIV)

"... make the kingdom of God your primary concern." (Matthew 6:33b, NLT)

2) Don't ultimately ___ FEAR TERRORISTS ___, instead ___ FEAR GOD ___.

"I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after killing the body, has the power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him." (Luke 12:4-5, NIV)

3) Pull ___ TOGETHER WITH OTHERS ___ so you don't fall apart alone.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!... A cord of three strands is not easily broken." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 & 12a, NIV)

4) Make ___ EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE ___ count for eternity.

"Look here, you people who say, 'Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.' How do you know what will happen tomorrow? For your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, 'If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.'" (James 4:13-15, NLT)

"Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12, NIV)

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